

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is submitted promptly and requested for entry without prejudice to the status of allowance granted by the Examiner in the initial Office Action first served upon the Applicant by Notice of Allowability mailed March 30, 2000. No issue fee has yet been paid.

An alternate embodiment of the present clip system, recently developed by the Applicant subsequent to the filing of the original application and thus not expressly disclosed therein, is specifically detailed in a statement intended for addition to the Specification and further recited in an independent Claim 7 to be added by the foregoing amendment. As clearly described in the statement proposed for the Specification, this alternate embodiment provides for removal of the retainer plate 20 with its extended slotted tabs 20a and instead providing the associated slots necessary for locking engagement of the clip members 22 on the inside back edge of the jaw 12 on either side. Further, to provide access to the slots on the back edge of the jaws, openings are made in and through the forward corners of the vise heads 14a, 14b which allow entry and engagement of the hook section 22b of the respective clip members. Proposed Claim 7 is a detailed recitation of this alternate embodiment and its modified provision for slot engagement by the same pair of clip members in substantially the same recitation

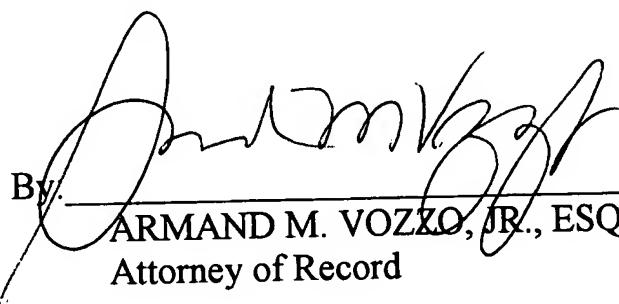
as appears in allowed Claim 1. Claim 7, as proposed, therefore recites patentable subject matter and should be similarly allowable as Claim 1 on the basis of the reported search and examination conducted in this case.

As initially stated, this alternate embodiment has only been recently reduced to practice by the Applicant and found to work equally as well as the preferred embodiment with retainer plate 20, but be better suited for retrofitting existing vise jaw and head combinations. It is believed, therefore, that the additional description proposed for the Specification is required for a proper enabling disclosure of the Applicant's invention and the additional Claim 7, needed for its protection.

Inasmuch as this alternate embodiment, as described and claimed in the foregoing amendment, comprises the same clip members in slotted engagement alongside the jaw and vise head for holding the parallel 16 flush against the front of the jaw as is originally disclosed in the preferred embodiment, but merely alters the slot location in a manner intended primarily for retrofitting existing jaw and vise head combinations, it is deemed to be within the scope of the Applicant's clip system described and claimed in the original application and introduces no new matter in terms of additional elements of the invention. Accordingly, the proposed amendment requires little or no additional work on the part of the Examiner in concluding a review, with no new or additional search being needed.

Accordingly, since the Applicant believes it incumbent upon him to disclose this alternate embodiment of the clip system to enable its practice, and further claim it in a similar fashion to that of Claim 1, as originally presented and now allowed, entry of the amendment is respectfully requested in this case without withdrawing the present case from issue.

Respectfully submitted,

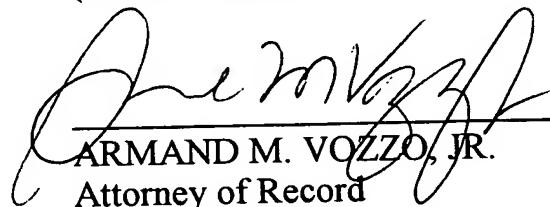

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